

2003 Transportation Safety Award Winners

- **Lifetime Safety Achievement Award – The Honorable James F. Almand, Arlington.** Since entering the General Assembly in 1978, Delegate Almand has strongly supported transportation safety legislation. During his tenure he was responsible for several major DUI and safety initiatives. He also served as chief co-patron for the 2003 Primary Seat Belt legislation. Currently, Delegate Almand is chairman of the Commission on VASAP (Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program). Under his leadership, VASAP has grown into the strongest DUI countermeasure system in the nation.
- **Lifetime Safety Achievement Award – Asbury “Ab” Quillian, Richmond.** Mr. Quillian, former Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, is a proven leader in the field of transportation safety. During the past two decades, he continued to maintain the agency’s focus on safety by integrating motor carrier safety into DMV’s mission. From 1995 to 2001, Mr. Quillian helped implement the Trucking Task Force and Omnibus Bill, Commercial Vehicle Information System Network (CVISN), Virginia’s Truck Weighing Program and electronic screening of motor carrier vehicles. Each of these programs represents a milestone in increasing motor carrier compliance and reducing the number of unsafe drivers and vehicles traveling through Virginia.
- **Aviation Safety Award – Steve Calabro, Chesterfield County Airport, Richmond.** Mr. Calabro, Director of the Chesterfield County Airport, has gone to great lengths to ensure that his airport – a “reliever” for Richmond International Airport – is safe. He instituted a new security plan that affects approximately 116 aircraft based at the airport as well as tens of thousands of people that live in and around Chesterfield County. All employees now wear uniforms and identification badges, hangar and fencing inspections are conducted on a routine basis, and magnetic card-controlled gates have been installed at entrances.
- **General Traffic Safety Award – Chung Chen, Richmond.** For more than 10 years, Mr. Chen researched the effectiveness of rumble strips in reducing run-off-the-road crashes. He proved that milled rumble strips, as opposed to the more popular rolled rumble strips, were more effective – they were three times louder and created twelve times as much vibration. As a direct result of his research, milled rumble strips have been installed on nearly 2,000 miles of interstate highway in Virginia and they have helped reduce run-off-the-road crashes in the state by more than 51 percent. This translates to one life saved and 22 crashes avoided for every 17 miles of milled strips. Mr. Chen’s recommendations have been adopted by 46 other state DOTs and his research has been recognized by the Federal Highway Administration. As a result, VDOT was honored with a National Highway Safety Award from FHWA in 2001.
- **Impaired Driving Award – E. C. Glass High School *Alcohol Awareness Week*, Lynchburg.** E.C. Glass High School’s first *Alcohol Awareness Week* began with a surprise mock crash in the student parking lot. The event – planned and implemented by two student government officers – was designed to create awareness about the seriousness of underage drinking and driving. As students left school for the day, a rescue squad worked frantically to recover the victims from the crash and took them away in an ambulance. At the same time, the arresting officer walked the drunk driver through DUI tests and placed him under arrest.

The week culminated with students trying on “Fatal Vision Goggles” – which simulate drunkenness – and attempting to perform simple tasks for officers.

- **Law Enforcement Award – First Sergeant Joe Rader, Staunton.** Sgt. Rader designed *Project Alliance* to address his growing concern of crash-related deaths in Augusta County. He edited and published 22 community traffic newsletters focusing on both mature drivers and teen drivers. Issues were e-mailed to all local high schools, school officials and driving instructors. Printed copies were placed at convenience stores and rest areas. Sgt. Rader also utilized television, radio and newspapers along with safety presentations and child safety seat checks to get his message out. As a result of his work, teen-related crashes decreased five percent, interstate fatalities decreased 33 percent and overall fatalities decreased 14 percent.
- **Legal Award – L. B. Chandler, Jr., Charlottesville.** Mr. Chandler implemented *A Safe Ride Home*, a program that runs from December 20 through New Year’s Day, to provide free rides home to anyone who has been drinking alcohol during the holiday season. Anyone needing a ride can call Yellow Cab of Charlottesville and the fare will be paid within a 10-mile radius of the city. Chandler attributes much of the success of *A Safe Ride Home* to community involvement. With the help of cab companies, local businesses, media and local law enforcement officers, the program has provided more than 12,000 safe rides home, thus lowering the number of drunk drivers on the road.
- **Media Award – WSLs News Channel 10, Roanoke.** WSLs Channel 10 became concerned about the number of traffic crashes claiming young lives and decided to utilize its resources to address the problem. As co-sponsor of an event called *Speaking Out and Saving Lives: A Community Meeting*, station members met with more than 100 teens, concerned citizens, law enforcement officers and members of the Blue Ridge Transportation Board to discuss teen traffic safety and the lack of safety belt usage among teen drivers. Also, WSLs aired a story focusing on the issue and ran radio spots encouraging the public to watch their coverage of the problem. The station followed up with a segment about the community meeting and provided coverage on a local story about an unbelted student who lost her life in a crash.
- **Motorcycle Safety Award – Mark McFaddin, Callands.** Mr. McFaddin, motorcycle safety program coordinator at Danville Community College, has increased the number of motorcycle safety classes being taught at the school and has more than doubled enrollment. In addition, he is a certified instructor for the Sidecar/Trike Course and has been instrumental in developing the three-wheeled training program in the Danville/Lynchburg area. Through his efforts, this program has resulted in the Motorcycle Safety League of Virginia adding a second mobile sidecar unit to handle the number of classes in that area.
- **Motor Carrier Safety Award – E. V. Williams, Inc., Virginia Beach.** Highway contractor E. V. Williams, Inc. established the *Escort Driver Certification Training Program* to make moving oversized loads safer and more efficient. The program has three components: to provide a single source for distribution of *Escort Driver* manuals to hauling companies; create a computer-based training module that guides trainees through the manual; and provide classroom and training facilities. The company also opened its doors to drivers from other companies to improve safety for all. Of the 60 candidates who made use of the program, 58 passed the *Escort Driver* certification exam on the first try.

- Occupant Protection Safety Award – New Kent County High School Safety Belt Policy, New Kent.** As a result of complaints from citizens and school bus drivers about poor student driving behavior and lack of safety belt usage, the New Kent County High School implemented its safety belt policy. Personnel from the New Kent County Sheriff's Office observed a 50 percent safety belt usage rate among high school students; their goal was to raise it to 75 percent. The policy, approved by the county school board, has a four-tier penalty system that ranges from a written warning to permanent loss of parking privileges. Since this policy was implemented, the safety belt use rate has increased to 98 percent.
- Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety Award – Alleghany Highlands Bike Rodeo, Clifton Forge.** The 6th annual Alleghany Highlands Bike Rodeo was held on May 4, 2002, attracting more than 300 local children ages 5 to 14. The Bike Rodeo includes a bike safety lecture given by local bike patrol officers; bike safety inspections; and a children's obstacle course that teaches awareness of motor vehicle traffic and other hazards. Local law enforcement officers help raise funds to make this successful event possible.
- Public Transportation Safety Award – Virginia Railway Express, Alexandria.** Virginia Railway Express (VRE) recognized that 40 percent of all medical incidents that occur on board commuter rail systems are cardiac-related. As a result, VRE became the first railroad in the country to implement Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) on trains. AEDs are small, portable, user-friendly devices that analyze heart rhythm, and if necessary, deliver a shock to restore an effective heartbeat. Every engineer, conductor and assistant conductor has received at least eight hours of training in the use of the equipment as well as CPR training. VRE also provides brochures that describe symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest inside railcars that instruct passengers to notify a crew member if someone near them needs help.
- Pupil Transportation Safety Award – Operation Safe Stop Program, Franklin County.** Captain Billy Overton and Mr. Steve Okes created *Operation Safe Stop* to make the public aware of three main safety problems children face while riding in school buses in Franklin County: driver inattention, motorists passing school buses and "near miss" crashes. The program incorporates high-visibility enforcement of school bus safety laws and education to help solve the problem.
- Rail Safety Award – Donnie L. Nauman, Roanoke.** Mr. Nauman, a locomotive engineer for Norfolk Southern, is dedicated to promoting safety and preventing injuries on the job. As such, he created a concept called *Safety Ranger*, allowing employees to work individually and collectively to heighten awareness of injury prevention. His concept quickly spread among Norfolk Southern employees in Virginia – more than 25,000 employees have been exposed to his program.
- Water Safety – William A. Burket, Virginia Beach.** Mr. Burket, a captain for the Virginia Beach Fire Department, was instrumental in establishing the Maritime Incident Response Team (MIRT). MIRT's purpose is to assist local fire department commanders, ship vessel masters and the U. S. Coast Guard in fighting fires and hazardous material incidents aboard ships and shore side facilities. MIRT not only provides emergency response and training for personnel for the entire Port of Hampton Roads, they respond to incidents in the waters of

the Commonwealth as well as off the Virginia coast to assist vessels with fire and HAZMAT incidents.

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